



## *Letter from the Executive Director*



**D**ear friend,

While this report is on the work we did in 2019, as I write this in mid-2020, we are in the middle of a global pandemic. Many of us feel afraid for our loved ones and ourselves. Things we never had to give a second thought to, like going on a walk or making a run to the grocery store, now give us pause.

For survivors of domestic violence and their children, this moment has been particularly frightening and uncertain.

Survivors are up against new barriers to justice and safety now. Unfortunately, we already know that the pandemic has resulted in an increase of domestic violence, both in frequency and in severity. Those still living with their abusers find it doubly hard to seek help because of the limitations from shelter-in-place orders. Those in shelters may fear getting sick while cohabitating with others in their temporary home. All the while, courts have closed or limited their services, making it harder for survivors to know and access their legal options.

At Family Violence Appellate Project, our dynamic team has quickly adapted. We have been monitoring the numerous emergency orders that affect survivors; giving trainings that incorporate pandemic-related legal information to domestic violence organizations and shelters; and, of course, continuing to accept appeals so that survivors can continue to move forward with getting legal protection. I hope this gives you confidence that your support is going to great use to ensure survivors are not being forgotten during this trying time.

Stay healthy and take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Shaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

## Key Outcomes for Survivors in 2019

In 2019, FVAP made some big moves in the legal space for domestic violence survivors by taking on tough legal matters and developing more resources for survivors who do not have lawyers, their advocates, and attorneys so that survivors have the best chance at a fair ruling in court.

### We won cases for survivors

including a survivor who was looking to appeal an unjust ruling in which her abuser and father of her child was granted visitation rights that amounted to joint custody. Joint custody is illegal unless the abusive parent has taken the legally required steps to show the court that they can safely parent.



### We got important cases published

including one case which resulted in the Court of Appeal ruling that household members can be included on a restraining order, extending protections for survivors' loved ones.

### We created a housing toolkit

to help survivors obtain safe housing. The Helping Survivors Obtain Housing Toolkit is full of resources on how being a survivor often affects your credit and how to fix it, affordable housing, addressing housing discrimination, and other legal protections abuse survivors have when it comes to housing.



And much more!

## Client Story

**M**yra got a temporary restraining order to protect herself from her estranged husband, who had been abusing her. However, they have a very young daughter and the parties had to see each other at exchanges for visitation.

Myra's ex was not allowed to harass, stalk, or disturb Myra's peace, nor was he allowed any contact with Myra except for brief and peaceful interaction needed to exchange their child for visitation.

Before Myra's temporary restraining order expired, she requested a long-term restraining order for the second time, which was based on her complaint that her husband had violated the temporary restraining order multiple times and even used visitation exchanges to further abuse Myra. He would use their child to try to coerce Myra back into the relationship, refusing to give the child back unless she interacted with him. He tried to force her to be physically affectionate and threatened to take their daughter away if she did not comply. He insulted her, followed her, and showed up at her new apartment, the address of which was confidential. He even took their child from a location that Myra and he had not agreed upon before the scheduled time, making Myra further worry for the safety of their daughter. Not only did all these abusive actions scare Myra, they violated the temporary restraining order meant to protect her. Despite this, the trial court denied her request for a long-term restraining order stating that the violations were "technical" and not "in and of itself domestic abuse."

FVAP appealed this ruling and won. The Court of Appeal's decision said that Myra's ex did, in fact, violate the temporary restraining order against him many times and those violations are domestic violence. Now Myra has a second chance at justice.



## By the Numbers



3

Published  
Appellate  
Cases



7  
New Trainings  
Created



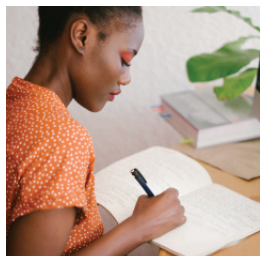
3  
Cases Won  
for Survivors



459  
Instances of Real-Time  
Legal Assistance Provided



24  
Trainings  
Given

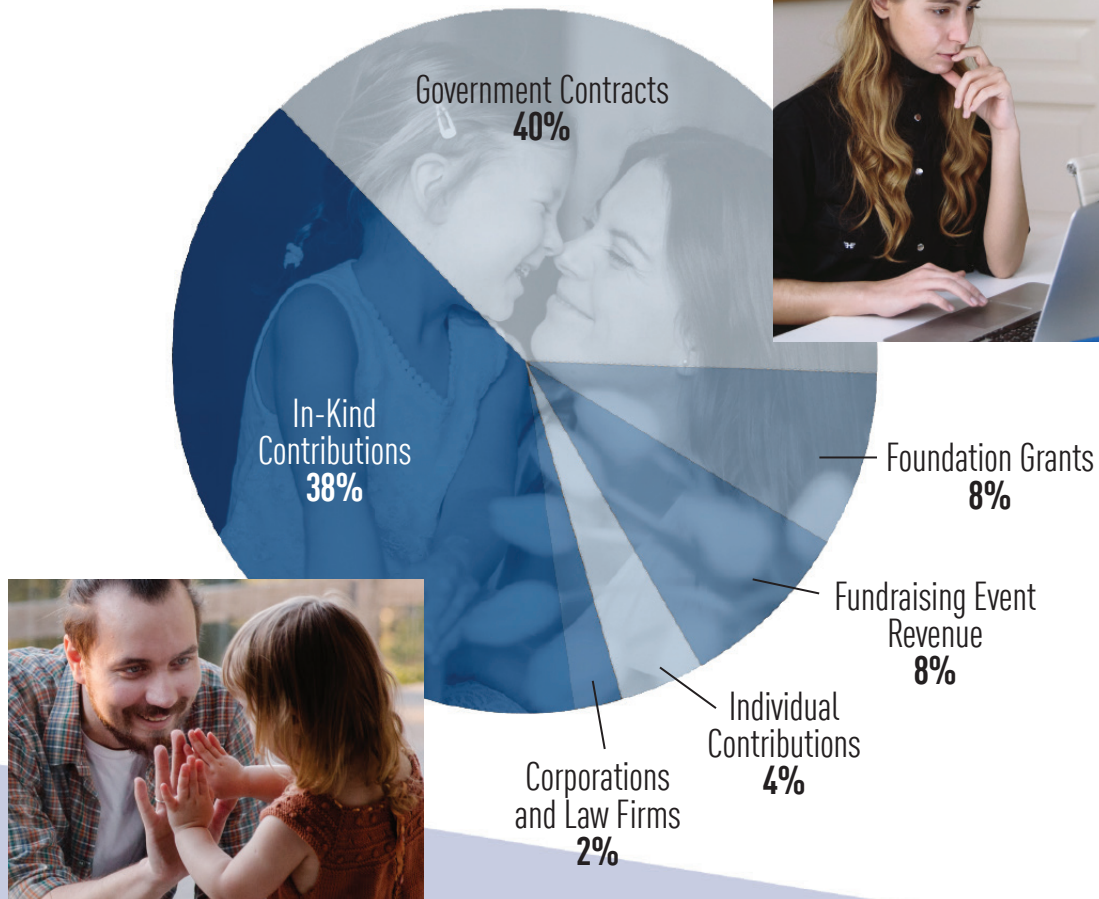


1,466  
Views of  
Written  
Resources

\$917,276  
Value of Pro  
Bono Hours in  
2019

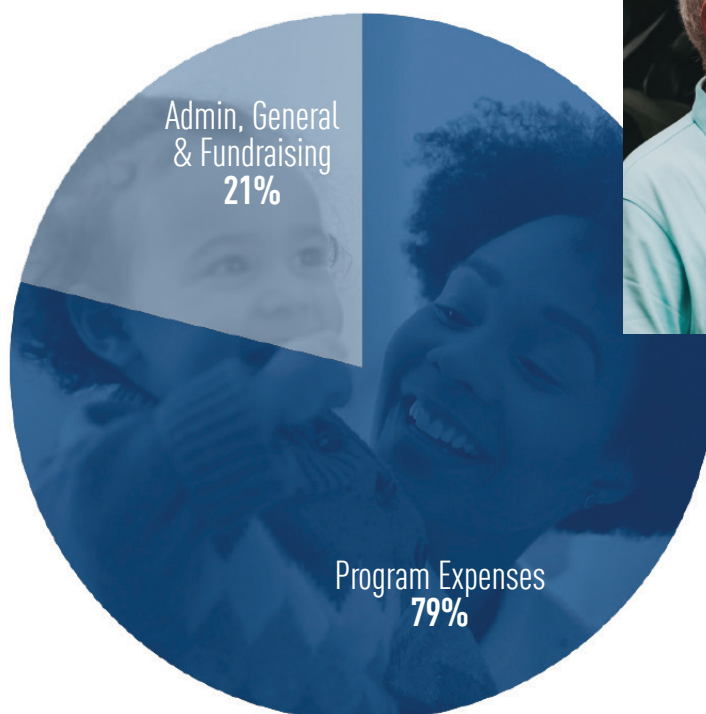


## Financials



Revenue & Support	2019
Foundation Grants	\$187,141
Fundraising Event Revenue	\$184,374
Individual Contributions	\$101,769
Corporate/Law Firm Contributions	\$40,969
Government Contracts	\$947,715
In-Kind Contributions	\$917,276
Other	\$4,484
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b>	<b>\$2,383,728</b>

Expenses	2019
Program Expenses	\$1,669,933
Admin, General, & Fundraising	\$446,015
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,114,948</b>
<b>Increase in net assets</b>	<b>\$267,780</b>



Assets	2019
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,729,246
Contributions Receivable	\$103,262
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$19,887
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,852,395</b>
Right of Use — Premises	\$219,856
Security Deposits	\$12,687
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,084,938</b>

Liabilities	2019
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$36,314
Lease Payable – Current Portion	\$66,136
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$102,450</b>
Lease Payable – Noncurrent Portion	\$173,844
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$276,294</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$1,666,379
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$142,265
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,808,644</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,084,938</b>

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*Join Our Legacy Society*

Family Violence Appellate Project's Legacy Society is made up of people who care about ensuring the safety of survivors of domestic violence and their children.

With forethought and generosity, FVAP's Legacy Society has committed to ensuring that domestic violence survivors and their children can benefit from FVAP's mission and programs long after they are gone.



*Share Your Legacy & Inspire Others*

Legacy Society members may choose to be recognized on FVAP's website with a quote sharing why they chose to make support of survivors a part of their legacy.

Are you ready to leave a legacy of justice? Send us an email at [staff@fvaplaw.org](mailto:staff@fvaplaw.org) for information on how to get started.

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Bryan Goff  
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### Special Acknowledgments

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## What People Are Saying about FVAP



"In a case that was largely about power and control, today I got to watch [Nadia] take it all back. Thank you all so much"

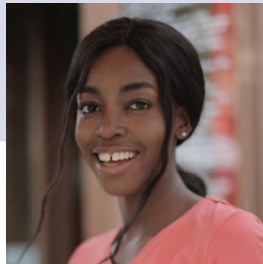
~Pro Bono Attorney

"I worked with FVAP as a lawyer and did several pro bono cases with them. Their staff was awesome and their cause is worthy. I believed in the organization and its people so much that I joined the board!"

~Michael H., FVAP Board Member

"You don't know what a victory this is for me. I feel so empowered and safe"

~Survivor



"The passion, dedication, and overall love for humanity that I have seen in my short time at this organization is unparalleled!"

~Alexis N., Volunteer

"The organization goes above and beyond to reach those in need and provide much needed services that victims would otherwise be unable to afford"

~Regina R., Volunteer

"I am proud to volunteer with FVAP. The dedication and skill of the small but mighty staff is truly awe-inspiring"

~Susan T., Volunteer

"Thank you so much for helping us and thank you for giving me hope"

~Survivor

"This is the first time in the years since I 'came out' about the nightmare that was my marriage that I have felt anyone has actually heard me"

~Survivor



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Dean, *Berkeley Law*

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Founder & CEO, *FreeFrom*

### **Alexandrea Scott**

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### **Meg Bay**

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### **Paul T. Jones**

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### **Arati Vasan**

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